

Modern Account

O F

SCOTLAND;

B E I N G,

An exact Description of the Country,

And a True

CHARACTER

O F T H E

People and their Manners.

Written from thence by an English Gentleman.

Thomas Kirke

Printed in the Year, 1679.

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 K of Egypt. Hence came the title and name of these present
 Inhabitants, as their Chronicle informs us, and is not to be

doubted of, from divers considerable circumstances; the
 Plagues of Egypt being enquired upon them, that of *Lice*
 (being a Judgment warranted) is an ample testimony
 their loving Animals accompanied them from Egypt, and

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Rats, and they never lost sight of them, but as
 The plague of *Lice* and *Scorpions* is peculiar to that
 distinguishing mark from the rest of the World, which (like
 the Devils chosen Hoof) *O F* all men to beware of them.

The Judgment of *Fire* and *Snow* is naturalized and made
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IF all our *European* Travellers direct their
 course to *Italy*, upon the account of its
 Antiquity, why should *Scotland* be neg-
 lected, whose wrinkled surface derives its
 original from the Chaos? The first In-
 habitants were some Stragglers of the
 fallen Angels, who rested themselves on

the Confines, till their Captain *Lucifer* provided places for
 them in his own Countrey. This is the conjecture of
 Learned Criticks, who trace things to their Originals;
 and this opinion was grounded on the Devils Brats yet
 resident amongst them, (whose fore-sight in the events
 of good and evil, exceeds the Oracles at *Delphos*) the sup-
 posed Issue of those Pristine Inhabitants.

Names of Countreys were not then in fashion, those came
 not in till *Adam's* days, and History (being then in her
 Infancy) makes no mention of the changes of that re-
 nowned Countrey, in that Interval betwixt him and *Moses*,
 when their Chronicle commences, she was then Baptized
 (and most think with the sign of the Cross) by the Vene-

rable name of *Scotland*, from *Scota*, the Daughter of *Pharaoh*
K. of Egypt. Hence came the rise and name of these present
 Inhabitants, as their Chronicle informs us, and is not to be
 doubted of, from divers considerable circumstances; the
 Plagues of *Egypt* being entailed upon them, that of *Lice*
 (being a Judgment unrepealed) is an ample testimony,
 these loving Animals accompanied them from *Egypt*, and
 remain with them to this day, never forsaking them (but as
 Rats have a House) till they tumble into their Graves.
 The Plague of *Biles* and *Blains* is hereditary to them, as a
 distinguishing mark from the rest of the World, which (like
 the Devils cloven Hoof) warns all men to beware of them.
 The Judgment of Hail and Snow is naturalized and made
 free Denison here, and continues with them from the Suns
 first ingress into *Aries*, till he has passed the 30th. degree
 of *Aquary*.

The Plagues of Darknes was said to be thick darkness,
 to be felt, which most undoubtedly these people have a
 share in, as the word *ouch* (Darkness) implies; the
 darkness being applicable to their gross and blockish under-
 standings (as I had it from a Scholar of their own Nation)
 Upon these grounds this Original is undeniably allowed
 them, and the Country it self (in *Pyramid's*) resembles
Egypt, but far exceeds them both in bulk and number;
 theirs are but the Products of mens labours, but these are
 Natures own handy-work; and if *Atlas* would ease a
 shoulder, here he may be fitted with a supporter.

Italy is compared to a Leg, *Scotland* to a Louse, whose
 legs and engrailed edges represent the Promontories and
 buttings out into the Sea, with more nooks and angles
 than the most conceited of my Lord Mayors Custards; nor
 does the comparison determine here: A Louse preys upon
 its own Fosterer and Preserver, and is productive of those
 Minute-Animals called Nitts; so *Scotland*, whose *Proboscis*
 joyns too close to *England*, has suckt away the nutriment
 from *Northumberland*, as the Countrey it self is too true a
 Testi-

Testimony, and from its opposite A---, has calved those Nitty Islands, called the *Orcades* and the *Shetland* (*quasi Shite-land*) Islands.

The Arms of the Kingdom was anciently a Red Lyon Rampant in a Field of Gold, but *An. Dom. 787*; they had the Augmentation of the double Tressure, for assisting the French King; but his Majesties Arms in *Scotland* is a more *Hysteron Proteron*; the Pride of the people being such, as to place the *Scots* Arms in the dexter quarter of the Escutcheon, and make the Unicorn the dexter Supporter, with the Thistle at his heel, with a suitable Motto, *Nemo me impune lacessit*, true enough; whoever deals with them shall be sure to smart for't: The Thistle was wisely placed there, partly to shew the fertility of the Countrey, Nature alone producing plenty of these gay Flowers, and partly as an emblem of the people, the top thereof having some colour of a flower, but the bulk and substance of it, is only sharp, and poysonous pricks.

Woods they have none, that suits not with the frugality of the people, who are so far from propagating any, that they destroy those they had upon this politick State Maxim, That Corn will not grow on the Land pestered with its Roots, and their branches harbour Birds, Animals above their humble conversation, that exceeds not that of Hornless *Quadrupedes*; marry perhaps some of their Houses lurk under the shelter of a plump of Trees (the Birds not daring so high a presumption) like *Hugh Peters* Puls in her Majesty, or an Owl in an Ivy bush. Some Firr-woods there are in the High-lands, but so inaccessible, that they serve for no other use than Dens for those ravenous Wolves with two hands, that prey upon their Neighbourhood, and shelter themselves under this Covert; to whom the sight of a Stranger is as surprizing as that of a Cockatrice. The Vallies for the most part are covered with *Beer*, or *Bigg*, and the Hills with Snow; and as in the Northern Countries the Bears and Foxes change their Coats into the livery of the

so l.

soyle, so here the Moor-Fowl (called Termagants) turn white, to suite the sample, though the Inhabitants still stand to their Egyptian Hue.

They are freed from the charge and incumbrance of Enclosures, the whole being but one large Waste, surrounded with the Sea: Indeed in many places you may see half a Rood of Land divided with an Earthen Bank, into many differing Apartments, according to the quality of Beasts that are to possess them.

The whole Countrey will make up a Park, Forrest, or Chace, as you'll please to call it; but if you desire an Account of particular Parks, they are innumerable, every small House having a few Sodds thrown into a little Bank about it, and this for the state of the business (forsooth) must be called a Park, though not a Pole of Land in't.

If the Air was not pure and well refined by its agitation, it wou'd be so infected with the stinks of their Towns, and the steams of the nasty Inhabitants, that it would be pestilential and destructive; indeed it is too thin for their gross senses, that must be fed with suitable Viands, their Meat not affecting their distempered pallats, without it have a damnable hogoe, nor musick their Ears without loud and harsh discord, and their Nostrils (like a Jews) chiefly delight in the perceptible effluvioms of an old Sir R....

Fowl are as scarce here as Birds of Paradise, the Charity of the Inhabitants denying harbour to such Celestial Animals, though Gulls and Cormorants abound, there being a greater sympathy betwixt them. There is one sort of ravenous Fowl amongst them that has one web foot, one foot suited for Land, and another for Water; but whether or no this Fowl (being particular to this Countrey) be not the lively picture of the Inhabitants, I shall leave to wiser conjectures.

Their Rivers, or rather Arms of the Sea are short, few places in Scotland being above a days Journey from the Sea, but they are broad, deep, and dangerous, pestered with multi-

multitudes of Porpoises or Sharks (some of them perhaps amphibious too, that live more on Land than Water) which destroy their Salmon, the great Commodity of this Countrey, which being too good for the Inhabitants, are barreled up and converted into Merchandize, &c. The Banks and borders of these Rivers (especially near their Towns) are adorned with hardy Amazons, though inverted, their valour being (chiefly) from the waste downwards, which parts they readily expose to all the dangers of a naked rencounter. The exercise of their Arms, I shou'd say Feet, is much about Linnen; Sheets are sufferers, a fit receiver is provided (not unlike a shallow Pulpit to mind them of their Idol Sermons) wherein soul Linnen is laid to suffer persecution, so they turn up all, and tuck them about the their waists, and bounce into a Buck-tub, then go their stock, and belabour poor Lint till there be not a dry thread on't. Hence came the invention of Fulling-Mills, the Women taught the Men, and they put in practice.

The Country is full of Lakes and Loughs, and they well stockt with Islands, so that a Map thereof, looks like a Pillory Coat bespattered all over with Dirt and rotten Eggs, some pieces of the shells floating here and there, representing the Islands.

Their Cattle are only representatives of what are in other Countreys, these being so Epitomized, that it is hard to know what *Class* they relate to. Their Horses are hardy, and not without Gall (as some say other Horses are) using both tooth and nail to mischief you; that they may not use more state than their Masters, they go Bare-foot, which preserves them from the Gout; and if *Hudibrasses* Horse had been of this race, he had not needed a Corn-cutter: Their Furniture or Harness is all of the same matter, all Wood from head to tail, Bridle, Saddle, Girths, Stirrups, and Crupper, all wood; nothing but a Withy will bind a Witch, and if these be called Witches, I shall not oppose it, since by their untoward tricks one would guess the

Devil

Devil to be in them; their Bridles have not Bitts, but a kind of Mustroll of two pieces of wood; their Crupper is a stick of a yards length, put cross their docks, both ends thereof being tyed with woven wood to the Saddle. Their Bed and Board too is all of a same dry Straw, and when they have it up, whip on Harness and away. Their Neat are Hornless, the Owners claiming sole propriety in those Ornaments, nor should I deny them their Necklace too, for me-thinks that hoisted wood wou'd mightily become them. Their Sheep too have the same preferment, they are coupled together near their Masters Palace. Some Animals they have by the name of Hogs, but more like Porcupines, bristled all over; and these are likewise fastned to the Free-hold by the former Artifice; all their Quadrupedes (Dogs only excepted, in which sort they much abound) are honoured with wooden Bracelets about their Necks, Legs, or Arms, &c.

Their Cities are poor and populous, especially *Edenborough*, their Metropolis, which so well suits with the Inhabitants, that one Character will serve them both, viz. High and Dirty. The Houses mount seven or eight stories high, with many Families on one Floor, one Room being sufficient for all occasions, eating, drinking, sleeping, and shit---The most mannerly step but to the door, and nest upon the Stairs. I have been in an Island where it was difficult to tread without breaking an Egg; but to move here, and not murder a T---is next to an impossibility; the whole pavement is Pilgrim-salve, most excellent to liquor Shoes withal, and soft and easie for the bare-foot Perambulators. The Town is like a double Comb (an Engine not commonly known amongst them) one great Street, and each side stockt with narrow Allies, which I mistook for Common-shores; but the more one stirs in a T---the more it will stink. The other Cities and Towns are Copies from this Original, and therefore need no Commentatorsto explain them; they have seven Colledges

or

(or rather Schools) in four Universities; the Regents wear what colour'd Cloaths or Gowns they please, and commonly no Gowns at all, so that it is hard to distinguish a Scholar from an ordinary Man, since their Learning shines not out of their Noses; the younger Students wear Scarlet Gowns only in Term time; their Residence is commonly in the Town, only at School-hours they convene in the Colledge to consult their Oracle *Buchanan*; their chief Studies are for Pulpit-preferment, to prate out four or five Glasses with as much ease as drink them; and this they attain to in their stripling years, commencing Mr. of Arts (that is meant onely Mr. of this Art) before one wou'd judge them fit for the Colledge; for as soon as they can walk as fas as the School (which they will do very young, for-like Lapwings they run with shells on their heads) they are sent thither, where they find no Benches to sit on (only one for the Mr.) but have a little Heath and Fadder strewed for them to lye upon, where they litter together, and chew the Cud on their Fathers Horn-books, and in good time are preferred to the Bible; from this petty School away with them to the Grammar School, *viz.* the Colledge where in three or four years time they attain to (their *ne plus ultra*) the degree of A. M. that is, they can *extempore* coin Graces and Prayers for all occasions; if you crack a Nut, there is a Grace for that, drink a dish of Coffee, Ale, or Wine, or what else, he presently furnishes you with a Grace for the nonce; so if you pare your Nails, go to Stool, or any other action of like importance, he can as easily suit you with a Prayer as draw on a Glove; and the wonder of all is, that this Prayer shall be so admirably framed, that it may indifferently quadrate with any occasion, an excellency no where so common as in this Countrey. Thus you see the young man has commenced and got strength enough to walk to the Kirk and enter the Chair, where we shall find him anon, after we have viewed the out-sides of their Kirks, some of which have been of

Antient Foundations, and well and regularly built, but order and uniformity is in perfect Antipathy to the humour of this Nation; these goodly Structures being either wholly destroyed (as at *St. Andrews* and *Elgin*, where by the remaining Ruins you may see what it was in perfection) or very much defaced; they make use of no Quires, those are either quite pulled down, or converted into another Kirk, for it is common here to have three, four, or five Kirks under one Roof, which being preserved entire, wou'd have made one good Church, but they cou'd not then have had Preaching enough in it: Out of one Pulpit now they have thirty Sermons *per week*, all under one Roof, plenty of Spiritual provision which gists much better with a mixture of the flesh; as you may guess by their Stools of Repentance in every Kirk, well furnished with Whore-mongers and Adulterers of both Sexes. In *Venice*, the shadows only of Curtezans are exposed to publick view only in Effigie, but here the Whore in person has a high place provided her in the view of the whole Congregation for the benefit of Strangers, who (some think) need not this direction, but may truck for all Commodities with the first they meet with. They use no Service-Book, nor Whore of *Babylons* Smock (as they term a Surplice) nor decency, nor order in their divine or rather contumelious Service. Wou'd a King think himself honoured by Subjects, that Petitioned him with bonet valed, but cockt his Cap the while his request was granting, while precious Mr. *Presbyter*, grimaces, prays or houts, the Monster Rabble vails; but as soon as Text is taken, Blew-bonnet takes place again, and this Pulpit-prater is esteemed more than Gods Ambassador, having the holy Spirit at his beck to prompt him every word he speaks, yet not three sentences of sence together, such Blasphemy as I blush to mention.

Their Christnings (as all other things) are without form, only water poured on the Infant, and such words used as *Sir John's Mephistophilus* supplies him with, and so the Child

Child commences Christian, as good (or better) than the best of them. Some think Marriage an unnecessary thing amongst them, it being more generous and usual amongst them to take one anothers words; however 'tis thus performed, The young Couple being attended with Tagrag and Bobraif, gang to Kirk, where Mr. *Scruple* (like a good Casuist) controverts the point in hand to them; and Schools Mr. Bridegroom in his Lesson, then directs his discourse to Mrs. Bride, who being the weaker Vessel, ought to have the more pains taken with her; he chalks out the way she is to walk in, in all its particulars, and joyns their hands, and then let them fall to on Gods name: Home they go with loud ravishing Bag-pipes, and dance about the Green, 'till they part by Couples to Repetition, and so put the rules in practice, and perhaps Sr. Roger follows Mrs. Bride to her Apartment, to satisfy her doubts, where he uses such pungent and pressing Arguments, as she never forgets as long as she lives.

When any one dies, the Bell-man goes about ringing their passing Bell, and acquaints the people therewith, in form following, *Beloved Brothrin and Sisters, I let you to wot that this is an faithful Broothir lawtli departed awt of this prisant warld, awt the plesuir of Aulmoughti Good* (and then he vails his Bonnet) *this Naum is Volli Voodcock, thrid Son to Jimmoy Voodcock a Cordinger; he ligs awt the sext door vethin the Nord Gant, close on the Nawthwair Rawnd, and I wod yaw gang to his burying on Thrusdau before twa a Cloak, &c.* The time appointed for his Burying being come, the Bell-man calls the Company together, and he is carried to the Burying-place, and thrown into the Grave (as Dog Lyon was) and there's an end of *Wolli*. Few people are here buried in their Kirks (except of their Nobility) but in the *Kirk Garth*, or in a burying place on purpose, called the *Hoof*, at the further end of the Town (like our Quakers) enclosed with a Wall, so that it serves not only as a Burying place, but an Exchange to meet in;

perhaps in one part of it their Court of Judicature are kept ; in another are Butts to shoot at for Recreation. All agree that a Womans tongue is the last member she moves but the Latin Proverb, *mulieri ne credas*, &c. seems to prove it after death : I am sure the pride of this People never leaves them, but follows them to their long homes (I was about to have said, to the Devil) for the meanest man must have a Grave-stone full fraught with his own praises (though he was the vilest Miscreant on Earth) and miserable *memento mori's*, both in English and Latin, nay Greek too, if they can find a Greek word for *Cordinger*, the Calling he was of, and all this in such miserable Scotch Orthography, that 'tis hard to distinguish one Language from another.

The Castles of defence in this Countrey are almost impregnable, only to be taken by Treachery or long Siege, their Water failing them soonest ; they are built upon high and almost inaccessible Rocks, only one forc'd passage up to them, so that a few Men may easily defend them. Indeed all the Gentlemens Houses are strong Castles, they being so Treacherous one to another, that they are forced to defend themselves in strong holds ; they are commonly built upon some single Rock in the Sea, or some high Precipice near the Mid-land, with many Towers and strong Iron Grates before their Windows (the lower part whereof, is only a wooden shutter, and the upper part glass) so that they look more like Prisons than Houses of Reception ; some few Houses there are of late erection, that are built in a better form, with good Walks and Gardens about them, but their Fruit rarely comes to any perfection. The Houses of the Commonalty are very mean, Mud-wall and Thatch the best ; but the poorer sort live in such miserable Huts as never eye beheld, it is no difficulty to piss over them ; Men, Women, and Children pigg altogether in a poor Mouse-hole of Mud, Heath, and such like matter, in some parts where Turf is plentiful ; they build up little Cabbins thereof,

with Arched Roofs of Turf, without a stick of Timber in it; when the House is dry enough to burn, it serves them for Fuel, and they remove to another. The Habit of the People is very different, according to the qualities or the places they live in, as Low-land or High-land Men. The Low-land Gentry go well enough habited, but the poorer sort go (almost) naked, only an old Cloak, or a part of their Bed-cloaths thrown over them. The Highlanders wear flashed Doublets, commonly without Breeches, only a Plad tyed about their Waists, &c. thrown over one shoulder, with short Stockings to the Gartering place, their knees and part of their thighs being naked; others have Breeches and Stockings all of a piece of Plad ware, close to their thighs; in one side of their Girdle sticks a Dirk or Skean, about a foot or half a yard long, very sharp, and the back of it filed into divers notches, wherein they put Poyson; on the other side a brace (at least) of brass Pistols; nor is this Honour sufficient, if they can purchase more, they must have a long swinging Sword.

The Women are commonly two-handed tools, strong-posted Timber, they dislike English men because they have no leggs, or (like themselves) posts to walk on; the meaner go bare foot and bare head, with two black Ellocks on either side their faces; some of them have scarce any Cloaths at all, save part of their Bed-cloaths pinn'd about their shoulders, and their Children have nothing else on them but a little Blanket; those Women that can purchase Plads, need not bestow much upon other Cloaths, these Cover-sluts being sufficient. Those of the best sort that are very well habited in their modish Silks, yet must wear a Plad over all for the Credit of their Countrey.

The people are Proud, Arrogant, Vain-glorious boasters, Bloody, Barbarous, and Inhuman Butchers. Couzenage and Theft is in perfection amongst them, and they are perfect English-haters, they shew their pride in exalting themselves and depressing their Neighbours. When the Palace at

Eden-

Edenburgh is finished, they expect his Majesty will leave his rotten House at *White-Hall*, and live splendidly amongst his nown Countrey-men the *Scots*; for they say that Englishmen are very much beholden to them that we have their King amongst us. The Nobility and Gentry Lord it over their poor Tenants, and use them worse than Gally-slaves; they are all bound to serve them, Men, Women, and Children; the first Fruits is always the Landlords due, he is the Man that must first board all the young Married Women within his Lairdship, and their Sons are all his Slaves, so that any mean Laird will have 6 or 10. or more followers, besides those of his own name, that are inferiour to him, must all attend him (as he himself must do his Superior, of the same name, and all of them attend the Chief) if he receives a Stranger, all this train must be at his beck Armed as aforesaid; if you drink with them in a Tavern, you must have all this Rubbish with you; and if you offend the Laird, his Durk shall soon be sheathed in your Belly, and after his, every one of his Followers, or they shall suffer themselves that refuse it, that so they may be all alike guilty of the Murder: Every Laird (of note) hath a Gibbet near his House, and has power to Condemn and Hang any of his Vassals; so they dare not oppose him in any thing, but must submit to his Commands, let them be never so unjust and Tyranical. There are too many Testimonies of their Cruelty amongst themselves in their own Chronicles, 40 of their Kings have been Barbarously Murdered by them, and half as many more have either made away themselves for fear of their torturing of them, or have dyed miserably in streight Imprisonment. What strange Butcheries have been committed in their feuds, some of which are in agitation at this day, viz. *Argile* with the *Macdonalds*, and *Mac Donnells* about *Mula Island*, which has cost already much blood, and is likely will cost much more before it will be decided; their spirits are so mean, that they rarely Rob, but take away life first, lying in Ambuscade, they send a brace of Bullets on Embassy through

through the Travellers body ; and to make sure work, they sheath their Durks in his liveless trunk ; perhaps to take off their fire edges, as new Knives are stuck in a Bag-pudding. If an Highlander be injured, those of his own name must defend him, and will certainly have satisfaction from the Offenders : A late instance whereof was at *Inverness*, (a considerable Town) where one of the *Macdonnells* was slain, but shortly the chief of the Name came down against the Town with 1500 Men of his own Name, and threatned to fire the Town, but the Inhabitants compounded with them for 2000 *l*.

Their Cruelty descends to their Beasts, it being a custom in some places to feast upon a living Cow they tie in the middle of them, near a great fire, and then cut collops of this poor living Beast, and broil them on the fire, till they have mangled her all to pieces ; nay, sometimes they will only cut of as much as will satisfy their present Appetites, and let her go till their greedy Stomacks calls for a new supply ; such horrible Cruelty as can scarce be parallel'd in the whole world ! Their Theft is so well known that it needs no proving, they are forced to keep Watch over all they have, to secure it ; their Cattle are watch'd day and night, or otherwise they wou'd be over-grown by morning. In the Highlands they do it publicly before the face of the Sun, if one Man has two Cows, and another wants, he shall soon supply himself from his Neighbour, who can find no remedy for it. The Gentry keep an Armory in their own Houses, furnish'd with several sorts of fire Arms, Pikes and Halberts, with which they Arm their followers, to secure themselves from the Rapine of their Neighbourhood. The Lowland Language may be well enough understood by an Englishman, but the Highlanders have a peculiar *Lingua* to themselves, which they call *Erst*, unknown to most of the Lowland men, except only in those places that border on them, where they can speak both : Yet these People are so currish, that if a Stranger inquire the way in English, they will certainly answer in *Erst*, and find no other Language than what

is forc'd from them with a Cudgel. If *Cornelius Agrippa* had travelled *Scotland*, sure Cookery had not been found in his Vanity of Sciences, such is their singular skill in this Art, that they may defie the world to rival them; King *James's* Treat for the Devil, that is a Poll of Ling, a Joll of Sturgeon, and a Pigg, with a pipe of Tobacco for digestion, had been very compleat, if the ordering thereof had been assigned to a Cuke of this Countrey, who can sute every dish with its proper hogoe, and bring Corruption to your Table, only to mind Men of Mortality: Their Meat is Carrion when 'tis kill'd, but after it has been a Fortnight a perfuming with the Aromatick air, strained through the calmy trunks of Flesh flies, then it passes the tryal of fire under the care of one of those exquisite Artists, and is dish'd up in a Sea of sweet Scotch Butter, and so cover'd and served hot up to the Table: O how happy is he that is placed next to it, with a priviledge to uncover it, and receive the hot streams of this dainty dish, almost sufficient to cure all Distempers. It will be needless to instance in particulars so plain and evident to all that have travell'd through the Countrey, that they may certainly bear away the Bell from all their Neighbouring Nations, or indeed from the whole world. Their Nobility and Gentry have Tables plentifully enough furnish'd, but few or none of them have their Meat better order'd: To put ones head into their Kitchen-doors, is little less than destructive; to enter Hell alive, where the black Fairies are busied in mangling dead Carcases, and the Fire and Brimstone, or rather stew and stinck, is ready to suffocate you, and yet (which is strange) these things are agreeable to the humours of the people. The Poorer sort live of Haddock, Whiting, and lower Milk, which is cryed up and down their Streets (*Wheabnyes sawer Milk*) and upon the stinking Fragments that are left at their Lairds Table. Prodigious Stomacks, that like the *Gulon*, can feed on their own Excrements, and strain their Meat through their Stomacks, to have the pleasure of devouring it again!

Their

Their Drink is Ale made of Beer-Malt, and Turned up in a small Vessel, called a Cogue; after it has stood a few hours, they drink it out of the Cogue, Yest and all; the Better sort Brew it in larger quantities, and drink it in wooden Queighs; but it is sorry stuff, yet excellent for preparing Birdlime; but Wine is the great drink with the Gentry, which they pour in like Fishes, as if it were their natural Element; the Glasses they drink out of, are considerably large, and they always fill them to the brim, and away with it; some of them have arrived at the perfection to tope Brandy at the same rate: sure these are a Bowl above *Bacchus*, and of right ought to have a nobler Throne than a Hogthead.

Musick they have, but not the Harmony of the Sphears, but loud terrene noises, like the bellowing of Beasts; the loud Bagpipe is their chief delight, Stringed Instruments are too soft to penetrate the organs of their ears that are only pleased with sounds of substance.

The High-ways in *Scotland* are tolerably good, which is the greatest comfort a Traveller meets with amongst them; they have not Inns, but Change houses (as they call them) poor small Cottages, where you must be content to take what you find, perhaps Eggs with Chucks in them, and some Lang-Cale; at the better sort of them, a dish of chop'd Chickens, which they esteem a dainty dish, and will take it unkindly if you do not eat very heartily of it, though for the most part you may make a Meal with the sight of the Fare, and be satisfied with the steam only, like the Inhabitants of the World in the Moon; your Horses must be sent to a Stablers (for the Change-houses have no Lodging for them) where they may feed voluptuously on Straw only, for Grass is not to had, and Hay is so much a Stranger to them, that they are scarce familiar with the name of it.

The *Scotch* Gentry commonly travel from one Friends House to another, so seldom make use of a Change-house; their way is to hire a Horse and a Man for two pence a

Miles; they ride on the Horse 30 or 40 Miles a day, and the Man, who is his Guide, foots it beside him, and carries his Luggage to boot. The best sort keep only a Horse or two for themselves and their best Friend, all the rest of the train foot it beside them. The Commonalty are soused to worship and adore their Lairds, that when they see a Stranger in any tolerable equipage, they honour him with the title of Laird at least, *An't please you my Laird such a one*, or *an't please you my Laird Dr.* at every bare word forsooth.

The Nobility shew themselves very great before Strangers, they are conducted into the House by a many of Servants, where the Lord with his troop of Shadows receives them with the grand Paw, then enter into some discourse of their Countrey, till you are presented with a great Queigh of Syrrup of Beer, after that a glais of White-wine, then a Rummer of Claret, and sometimes after that a glais of Sherry Sack, and then begin the round with Ale again, and ply you briskly, for it's their way of shewing you'r Welcome, by making you Drunk; if you have longer time to stay, you stick close to Claret, till *Bacchus* wins the Field; and leaves the conquer'd Victims groveling on the place where they received their overthrow; at your departure you must drink a *Dongha Doras*, in English, a Stirrup cup, and have the satisfaction to have my Lords Bagpipe (with his loud Pipes, with his Lordships Coat Armor on a Flag) strut about you, and enchant you with a *Loth to depart*.

Their Money is commonly *Dollars*, or Mark pieces, coined at *Edenbrough*, but their way of Reckoning is surprising to a Stranger, to receive a Bill of 100 *l.* in one of their Change-houses, when one would not suppose they had any of the value of 100 pences; they call a Penny a shilling, and every 20 Shillings, *viz.* 20 pence, a Round; so the proportion of their Round to ours is twelve to one. Strangers are sure to be grossly imposed upon in all their Change-houses, and there is no redress for it. If an Englishman should complain to their Magistrates, they would all take

take a part against him, and make sure to squeeze him:

The conclusion of the Abridgment of the Scotch Chronicle, is the rare and wonderful things of that Countrey; as in *Orkney*, their Ews bring forth two Lambs a piece; that in the Northernmost of *Shetland* Islands, about the Summer Sollicit, there is no Night; that in the Park of *Cumbernaule* are white Kine and Oxen; that at *Slanes* there is a putrifying water in a Cove; that at *Aberdeen* is a Vitriolin Well, that they say is excellent to dissolve the Stone, and expel Sand from the Reins and Bladder, and good for the Colick, being drunk in *July*, &c. These Prodigious wonders in one Countrey are admirable, but these are not half of them. *Loughness* never freezes; in *Lough Lommond* are Fishes without fins: And 2dly. The Waters thereof rage in great waves without Wind in calm weather: And 3dly. and lastly, Therein is a floating Island: In *Kyle* is a deaf Rock 12. foot every way, yet a Gun discharged on one side of it, shall not be heard to the other. In another place is a Rocking-stone of a reasonable bigness, that if a Man push it with his finger, it will move very lightly, but if he address his whole force, it availeth nothing; with many more marvels of like nature, which I wou'd rather believe than go thither to disprove. To conclude the whole bulk and selvedge of this Countrey, is all *Wonder* too great for me to unriddle, there I shall leave it as I found it, with its agreeable Inhabitants in

*A Land where one may pray with curst intent :
Ob! May they never suffer Banishment.*

F I N I S.